

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 SS-20 L-03 H-03

NSC-07 STR-08 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 EUR-25

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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O R 011050Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 748

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMMSSIN USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, OCON, CE

SUBJ: ECAFE: USE OF RUSSIAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE

1. DURING DISCUSSION OTHER SUBJECT MORNING APRIL 1 AT ECAFE PLENARY SESSION, SOVIET DEL ANNOUNCED IT WAS TABLING DRAFT RES WHICH WOULD MAKE RUSSIAN A WORKING LANGUAGE OF ECAFE. ASKED THAT SUBJECT BE TAKEN UP ALONG WITH SIMILAR RES ON CHINESE LANGUAGE, WHICH IS ALREADY ON AGENDA. LATTER MAY COME UP AS EARLY AS TUESDAY, 2 APRIL.

2. IN PRESENTING ITS CASE, SOVIET DEL SIAD IT HAD AT LAST YEAR'S PLENARY SESSION RESERVED RIGHT TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL AND SO WAS NOW DOING SO. ARGUMENT BASED ON USSR'S LONG INVOLVEMENT IN ECAFE AND FACT MORE THAN HALF OF THAT COUNTRY IS IN ASIA. LATTER POINT, OF COURSE, HAS TO DO WITH WHETHER USSR IS REGIONAL OR NON-REGINAL ECAFE MEMBER. WE AND MOST OTHERS ACCEPT IT AS NON-REGIONAL.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH POSITION PAPER ON SUBJECT, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT CHINESE LANGUAGE RESOLUTION. OUR INCLINATION IS TO OPPOSE RUSSIAN AND, IF NECESSARY, RISE QUESTIONS

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INVOLVING BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS. PLEASE SEND INSTRUCTIONS
BY OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 2 LOCAL TIME.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB00869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0614
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740478/aaaactb.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECAFE: USE OF RUSSIAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE
TAGS: OCON, CE, ECAFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005